

# Randolph County Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Randolph County Public Health is aware that Randolph County School System high school graduation is scheduled to take place this Saturday, July 25, 2020. It is important to highlight that the number of COVID-19 cases is still surging in Randolph County. In the month of June, there were 525 new cases. While July is not over, 611 cases have been recorded to date. We must remain diligent in our effort to slow the spread and remember that celebratory gatherings are no exception.

North Carolina remains in Phase 2, also known as “Safer At Home”. The CDC and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services continue to recommend that everyone avoid large gatherings. The CDC states that large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least six feet apart is a high risk for spread of COVID-19.

Last month, Union County held high school graduation. Since their graduation, the Union County Health Department has identified two separate clusters related to graduation. A cluster is defined as five or more cases within 14 days and a likely connection between cases. One cluster occurred with 16 people who all attended graduation and participated in post-graduation parties. The second cluster involved middle school staff members who worked together.

We want to make it clear that staying home is without a doubt the safest option to protect yourself and others. There are currently seven clusters in Randolph County, and we would like to prevent anymore. If you choose to attend graduation, it is important to practice the following precautions:

- Only sit with people who live inside your house and six feet away from other households
- Wear a cloth face covering
- Bring hand sanitizer with you to use when you are unable to wash your hands
- Avoid post-graduation gatherings
- Avoid group graduation photos with people from other households
- **Do NOT** attend the graduation ceremony if you have had any known exposure to COVID-19 within the past 14 days
- **Do NOT** attend graduation if you have had any COVID-19 symptoms in the past 14 days, even if symptoms were very mild
- **Do NOT** attend graduation if you are currently positive for COVID-19, even if you have no symptoms or very mild symptoms.

Staying at home remains the safest option to stop the spread of COVID-19. Graduation is a time to recognize seniors for their hard work and for families to celebrate this milestone. Please honor our seniors by celebrating their accomplishments as safely as possible.